

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3037

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to improve the educational awards provided for national service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2008

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to improve the educational awards provided for national service, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AmeriCorps: Together
5 Improving Our Nation Act” or as the “ACTION Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMOUNT OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL**
 2 **AWARD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 147(a) of the National
 4 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603(a))
 5 is amended—

6 (1) by striking “equal to 90 percent of” and all
 7 that follows and inserting the following: “equal to—

8 “(1) for fiscal year 2009, \$6185; and

9 “(2) except as provided in paragraph (1), for
 10 each fiscal year, an amount equal to the greater of—

11 “(A) the average cost of tuition and fees
 12 (determined under section 472 of the Higher
 13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll) for
 14 the preceding fiscal year for a full-time student
 15 at a 4-year public institution of higher edu-
 16 cation that receives funds under title IV of that
 17 Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

18 “(B) the amount determined for the pre-
 19 ceding fiscal year under this subsection.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) takes effect
 21 on October 1, 2008.

22 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL**
 23 **AWARD.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 147 of the National and
 25 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603) is
 26 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(d) TREATMENT.—The amount of a national service
2 educational award provided to an individual under this
3 subtitle shall not be included in the gross income of the
4 individual for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of
5 1986.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply to national service educational
8 awards disbursed after December 31, 2008.

9 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS TO IMPLEMENT**
10 **PRIORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

11 Section 121(b) of the National and Community Serv-
12 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)) is amended by add-
13 ing at the end the following:

14 “(5) PRIORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In
15 carrying out this subsection, the Corporation may
16 enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with
17 another Federal agency to support a national service
18 program, carried out by the Federal agency, to im-
19 plement the priorities of the Federal agency (not-
20 withstanding section 122).”.

21 **SEC. 5. CABINET LEVEL STATUS FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF-**
22 **FICER.**

23 (a) EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.—Section 101 of title
24 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
25 the following:

1 “The Corporation for National and Community
2 Service.”.

3 (b) COMPENSATION.—Section 193 of the National
4 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651c)
5 is amended—

6 (1) by striking “level III” and inserting “level
7 I”; and

8 (2) by striking “section 5314” and inserting
9 “section 5312”.

○